

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 12, 13, and 21 as provided on the following pages, in which deletions are indicated by double brackets and/or strikethrough, and insertions are indicated by underscoring. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A ladder stand for use in elevating a hunter or naturalist, said ladder stand comprising:

a ladder for enabling travel from the ground to a platform,

an upper frame assembly comprising a substantially U-shaped brace having a pair of parallel legs interconnected by a ~~web, which~~ connecting member, wherein said brace is operatively attached to an upper end of the ladder and ~~which~~ is configured to be oriented substantially horizontally in an installed configuration of the ladder stand, the brace including an open end and a closed end at the ~~web~~ connecting member for placement proximate a vertical support,

a standing platform for supporting a hunter or naturalist thereon, the standing platform being operatively attached to the ladder below the upper frame assembly;

a movable seat which is pivotally connected to the ~~web~~ connecting member at the closed end of the U-shaped brace in a manner such that the seat is upwardly pivotally movable out of contact with the pair of parallel legs in the installed configuration of the ladder stand, and

a plurality of securing members for removably attaching the ladder stand to a vertical support; and

a support-contacting member which is rigidly affixed to the closed end of the brace above the standing platform for contacting said vertical support,

wherein a primary area of the ladder stand provided for contacting said vertical support, in an installed configuration thereof, is provided by the support-contacting member above the standing platform.

2. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 1, further comprising at least one implement rest which is adjustably connected to a portion of the upper frame assembly above the standing platform, for supporting an implement thereon.

3. (Currently amended) The ladder stand of claim 1, wherein the seat is pivotally attached to the ~~closed end of the brace~~ connecting member of the upper frame assembly at two spaced apart connections.

4. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 1, further comprising a limit bar which is fixedly attached to the brace of the upper frame assembly, to limit downward movement of the seat.

5. (Original) The ladder stand of claim 1, wherein the standing platform includes a first end which is operatively attached to the ladder, and a second end which is operatively interconnected to the upper frame assembly.
6. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 5, wherein the standing platform is substantially parallel to the brace in the installed configuration thereof, and wherein the second end of the standing platform is suspended from the upper frame assembly by a plurality of support members extending therebetween.
7. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 2, further comprising at least one extension arm adjustably connected to said brace above the standing platform, for adjusting a position of said implement rest.
8. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 7, further comprising a pivotally movable swing arm attached to said extension arm, said swing arm situated above the brace in the installed configuration of the ladder stand.
9. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 1, wherein the seat includes side portions which rest on and contact the pair of parallel legs of the brace at a plurality of contact

points along respective parallel portions thereof when the seat is in the operative position thereof.

10. (Original) The ladder stand of claim 2, wherein said implement rest includes a substantially wishbone-shaped support member.

11. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 2, wherein said upper frame assembly includes a pivotally adjustable swing arm, said swing arm situated above the brace in the installed configuration of the ladder stand, and wherein said implement rest is attached to said swing arm.

12. (Currently Amended) A ladder stand for use in elevating a hunter or naturalist, said ladder stand comprising:

a ladder for enabling travel from the ground to a platform,

an upper frame assembly comprising two spaced-apart reinforcing rails attachable to the top of the ladder, and a substantially U-shaped brace having a pair of parallel legs interconnected by a web, which connecting member, wherein said brace rests on and is fixedly attached to the reinforcing rails;

a standing platform for supporting a hunter or naturalist thereon, said standing platform operatively attached to an upper end at the web of the ladder;

a movable seat which is pivotally connected to the ~~web~~ connecting member in a manner such that the seat is upwardly pivotally movable out of contact with the pair of parallel legs in an installed configuration of the ladder stand,

a plurality of securing members for removably attaching the ladder stand to a vertical support, and

at least one implement rest which is adjustably attached to the upper frame assembly, for supporting an implement thereon.

13. (Currently amended) The ladder stand of claim 12, wherein the seat is pivotally attached to the ~~web of the brace~~ connecting member of the upper frame assembly at two spaced apart points.

14. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 12, further comprising a limit bar which is fixedly attached to the brace of the upper frame assembly, to limit downward movement of the seat.

15. (Original) The ladder stand of claim 12, wherein the standing platform includes a first end which is operatively attached to the ladder, and a second end which is operatively connected to the upper frame assembly.

16. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 12, wherein the standing platform is substantially parallel to the brace in the installed configuration thereof, and wherein the second end of the standing platform is suspended from the upper frame assembly by a plurality of support members extending therebetween.

17. [Canceled]

18. (Original) The ladder stand of claim 12, further comprising at least one extension arm adjustably connected to said brace, for adjusting a position of said implement rest.

19. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 18, wherein the seat includes side portions which rest on and contact the pair of parallel legs of the brace when the seat is in the operative position thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The ladder stand of claim 12, wherein said upper frame assembly includes a pivotally adjustable swing arm, said swing arm situated above the brace in the installed configuration of the ladder stand, and wherein said implement rest is attached to said swing arm.

21. (Currently amended) A ladder stand for use in elevating a hunter or naturalist, said ladder stand comprising:

a ladder for enabling travel from the ground to a platform,

an upper frame assembly comprising:

two spaced-apart reinforcing rails operatively attached to an upper end of the ladder, and

a substantially U-shaped brace having a pair of parallel legs interconnected by a ~~web, which~~ connecting member, wherein said brace rests on and is fixedly attached to the reinforcing rails, said brace having a closed end and an open end;

a standing platform for supporting a hunter or naturalist thereon, said standing platform being attached to the ladder so as to be substantially parallel to said brace in an installed configuration of said ladder stand;

a movable seat which is pivotally connected to the ~~web~~ connecting member at the closed end of the U-shaped brace in a manner such that the seat is upwardly pivotally movable out of contact with the pair of parallel legs in the installed configuration of the ladder stand, and

a plurality of securing members for removably attaching the ladder stand to a vertical support.